

ZENEN OZOA  
OWNER BOTTOM FISHING VESSEL KA IMI KAI  
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January 2, 2005

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Vice Admiral,

Greetings from the bottom fishing vessel Ka Imi Kai. My Name is Zenen Ozoa. I am the owner of the bottom fishing vessel Ka Imi Kai, operating as one of nine federal permittees in the Northwest Hawaii Islands. I write to express my gratitude for the time and interest that you are giving to the address the problems of the Coral Reef Sanctuary, Northwest Hawaiian Islands. I write to inform you that I support both Governor Linda Lingle and Representative Ed Case in their efforts to ban fishing in the entire area.

Fishing in the refuge is very challenging. As you know the high cost of fuel, the distances that we are required to travel, and the normal increases in overall operational expenses has taken any real potential for profit out of this business. The price of fish realized at the Honolulu fish auction has not risen sufficiently to cover the cost of operations. While foreign imports routinely under price our products by \$1.50 per pound. Further, the inability to expand our business due to regulations and uncertainty makes long term survivability very uncertain. Nevertheless, this is the fishing situation in the Northwest Hawaiian Island; today. Low profitability, uncertainty, zero growth potential, and jurisdictional "land mines" provide the perfect recipe for business failure.

VISITS TO THE REFUGE:

Recently, Hawaii Congressman Ed Case visited the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and was quoted in the Honolulu Star Bulletin as saying, "I think it's come to a fork in the road where choices need to be made". Representative Case also said, "I think when you spend any time in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that you see that this should be a pure refuge", "I'm going to tell them up there", "I'll tell them that despite the good intentions of a lot of people, this place is going to deteriorate", unless more protection is given. **This area needs and deserves protection.**

Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, I believe that most of the officials and administrators that visit the Northwest Hawaiian Islands return with the same opinions and conclusions. If the fishery remains open, deterioration of the refuge will continue not from those already fishing but from others that want to expand into lobsters fishing and other forms of commercial harvesting of marine products.

BUY OUT THE BOTTOM FISHERY AND CLOSE THE AREA PERMANENTLY:

I propose that each of the nine Federal licensee's operating with a bottom fishing permits for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands be bought out by Federal, State, or concerned NGO's. I believe that I can help in promoting this process.

CONCLUSION:

As Representative Ed Case, and others have stated, we have come to the time for making choices. The refuge is at a crossroads and leadership and decision making are now in order. I wish you a healthy and prosperity in the New Year.

Please let me know if I can be of service.

Best regards,

  
Zenen Ozba  
BFV Ka Imi Kai